

# **Yingtan Social Welfare Institute Report**

**March 2012**

**Institute Director:** She Xiaozhen (余小贞)

**Institute Vice-Director:** Ai Ciping (艾茨萍)

**Head of the Amity Foster Care Project:** Zhan Jianjun (占建军)

The Yingtan Social Welfare Institute (SWI) is responsible for over 60 children, many of who are physically or mentally disabled. Disabilities range from congenital heart disease to cleft lips and palates, to Downs Syndrome and more. For the children residing in the SWI, the Amity/Altrusa Hugging Grannies and other staff are responsible for their care and well-being and perform their tasks admirably. They help the children with physical therapy and rehabilitation, education, and exercises to strengthen their muscles, with the goal of having the children be more independent and self-reliant.

Amity/Altrusa currently sponsors 13 children for foster care while the Institute sponsors 10 children. Approximately 40 children, the majority of whom have cerebral palsy or a cognitive disability, reside at the Institute itself (this number often fluctuates). Most of Yingtan's foster children are older, so they only return to the Institute for check-ups once every six months although a staff person visits their foster home regularly.

Amity staff person Ms. Luo met with 12 foster children and their foster families. She also met with scholarship student Fu XB but did not see Fu LJ or Fu B because they are on a leave of absence from school to study English in Zhejiang Province. Both have part-time jobs while they are taking the English courses. Individual reports on these children will be sent to their foster and school sponsors.

Ms. Luo also met with our four Hugging Grannies and their photos and information are below.



Grandma Zhou helps with rehabilitation and education at the institute. Every day, Grandma Zhou helps this young girl learn how to walk. She is one-and-a-half years old and has epilepsy. She gets sick easily so the Grannies and nurses are careful to look after her and accompany her when she wants to play. She loves Grandma Zhou and together they practice walking and speaking and she has been making improvements in both areas. When Grandma Zhou holds her hands, she can now walk forward for longer periods of time than before.



Grandma Zhong Xiaofang (above) is responsible for disability rehabilitation and education in the institute. She is a warm-hearted and caring person and understands the children's needs. She has a likable personality that draws people to her, especially the children. There are many children who always want to play with Grandma Zhong when she arrives! Grandma Zhong is pictured with some of the children at the institute. The children are a little bit older than the others and are able to take care of themselves for the most part. Some of them need assistance from adults for their daily needs so Grandma Zhong helps them with whatever they need. She also teaches them basic knowledge such as communication skills, politeness, how to address others, etc. The children are learning slowly but surely and enjoy being with Grandma Zhong very much!



Grandma Yu Hongying is also responsible for rehabilitation and education at the institute. She often works in the rehabilitation wing helping children with exercises and muscle relaxation. She also helps children with daily tasks such as feeding them, bathing, etc. Grandma Yu arrives at the institute early in the morning and helps the nurse wash the children's faces and get ready for the day. The children love Grandma Yu and are very familiar with her since she has worked at the institute for a long time!

Doctor Wang works in the children's ward of the institute and helps tend to the sick children and administers vaccinations and physical exams as well. On the day we visited, Doctor Wang was working with a child who has a hernia. The institute has not received permission for surgery for this child, but is working towards securing it.



In the above photo Doctor Wang is helping a child with a cleft lip and palate. It is easy for children with this condition to drool, so Doctor Wang helps wipe the saliva off of her face. For fun, she tickles the child to make her laugh and feel happy! In the near future, she will receive surgery, and Doctor Wang will help with her recovery afterwards. Doctor Wang is very capable in her job and loves the children very much.